

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164652
ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN
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O 282050Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 164652

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

REF: SANA 03167

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATE 414 AS REQUESTED PARA 2
REFTEL. STATE CABLE IS DATED JANUARY 3, 1977.

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2. BEGIN QTE: DEPT AND DOD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SANA'S
THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS ATTENDANT UPON US-SAUDI-YAR
ARMS SUPPLY COORDINATION.

2. FROM THE OUTSET OF THIS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL BUT POTENTIALLY
SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM IT HAS BEEN OUR INTENT TO STRESS ITS
REGIONAL COOPERATION ASPECTS. THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED
FOR THE US TO MONITOR THE PROGRAM CAREFULLY AND CONTINUOUS-
LY, WE WISH TO DO SO IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT DILUTE
NASCENT SAUDI-YEMENI COOPERATION EFFORTS. FROM OUR PER-
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SPECTIVE IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT THE MAIN BURDEN
OF COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES CONTINUES TO BE CARRIED BY THE
YEMENIS AND THE SAUDIS. FORMAL US INVOLVEMENT IN THE
EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THOSE AREAS
WHERE OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS INDISPENSIBLE (E.G., PRO-

VISION OF QUALITY CONTROL TEAMS, ONE OF WHICH IS DUE TO

ARRIVE IN YAR SHORTLY TO CHECK ARRIVING MILITARY TRUCKS)
OR WHERE HIGH LEVEL INTERVENTION IS NECESSARY TO CORRECT
BOTTLENECKS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS (E.G., NON-TRANSFER
ASSURANCES ON 105 HOWITZERS WHICH IT IS OUR ULTIMATE
RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN).

3. IN VIEW OF THESE GENERAL JUDGEMENTS WE BELIEVE THE
FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHOULD PROVIDE THE KIND OF US INVOLVE-
MENT BEST CALCULATED TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS OF ENHANCED
REGIONAL COOPERATION AND A SMOOTH-RUNNING PROGRAM. (A)
ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS WE EXPECT THAT EMBASSY SANA WILL
CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE SAUDI MISSION
AND OFFER FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL ADVICE. WE ANTICIPATE
THAT BECAUSE OF EMBASSY SANA'S EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH THE
SAUDI MISSION, SUCH COUNSEL WOULD BE ACCEPTED IN GOOD
GRACE, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS OFFERED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR
IMPARTIAL OBSERVATION OF PROGRAM INADEQUACIES RATHER THAN
AS A RESULT OF YEMENI COMPLAINTS.

(B) OCCASIONS WILL INEVITABLY ARISE WHEN THE YEMENIS WILL
FEEL THAT A FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THEIR CONCERNS TO THE
SAUDIS IS IN ORDER. WE BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER
STRUCK THE RIGHT NOTE WHEN HE SUGGESTED YEMENIS SHOULD
CARRY THEIR PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO THE SAUDIS, EITHER WITHIN
THE COUNTRY OR IF NECESSARY TO MODA IN RIYADH, AND THAT
WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO THIS END.

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(C) FINALLY, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A FEW INSTANCES WHEN
THE USE OF US GOOD OFFICES WILL BE NECESSARY VIA EMBASSY
JIDDA. WE ARE RELUCTANT, HOWEVER, TO APPROVE ANY DEMARCHE
IN JIDDA UNTIL EMBASSY SANA HAS REACHED THE LIMITS OF
WHAT IT CAN ACHIEVE VIA INFORMAL PERSUASIVENESS IN THE
YAR AND UNTIL YAR ITSELF HAS MADE CLEAR AND FORCEFUL PRE-
SENTATION TO THE SAUDIS.

4. THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE. VANCE

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